

WHAT'S NEW IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

To continue to provide you with information related to workers' compensation, here is the 5th edition of the Workers' Compensation Newsletter. We hope that you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please call Ayanna Smith at (301) 734-7488 or Denise Coleman at (301) 734-8350.

Hot topics:

Nurse Intervention: As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Office of Workers' Compensation Program (OWCP) is implementing a nurse intervention program during the continuation of pay (COP) period. Program activities are conducted by telephone and are limited to thirty days of case management. This early intervention is dependent upon prompt submission of claim forms by employing agencies since any cases with an initial work stoppage date more than thirty days prior to the date the case is received by OWCP will not be considered for this program.

Each District Office will recruit a COP/Telephonic Case Manager (TCM). The COP/TCM will be reimbursed by the Agency at a "global fixed fee" rate of \$100 per case. This amount represents reimbursement for both the professional and administrative services on the case and will be paid only at case closure. This means that for every case on which a TCM calls you, it will cost your Program \$100.

For the flat \$100 per case charge, a total of three calls should be attempted by the COP/TCM to reach either the claimant or the employing agency. For those cases where the claimant does not return to work within the thirty day intervention period, the TCM will terminate the intervention and complete the Return to Work (RTW) Case Worksheet recommending future actions to be taken by the Case Examiner. Under no circumstances will the thirty day period be extended.

The Color of Forms You Submit to DOL Matters: The best way to receive the most current forms is to download them from the Department of Labor (DOL) website. The Department's Forms Warehouse will continue to distribute old forms until their supply is exhausted. In order to expedite the processing of forms, you should print them on the appropriate color paper. DOL gives priority to color forms in their processing procedures.

<u>Form #</u>	<u>Form Name</u>	<u>Form Color</u>
CA-1	Federal Employees Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim For Continuation of Pay/Compensation	White
CA-2	Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation	Yellow
CA-2a	Notice of Recurrence of Disability and Claim for Pay/Compensation	Blue

CA-3	Report of Termination of Disability and/or Payment	Gold
CA-5	Claim for Compensation by Widow, Widower and/or Children	White
CA-6	Official Superior's Report of Employee's Death	Blue
CA-7	Claim for Compensation on Account of Traumatic Injury of Occupational Disease w/CA-20 Attending Physicians Report	Pink
CA-7a	Time Analysis Form	White
CA-7b	Leave Buy Back worksheet/Certification and Election	White
CA-10	What a Federal Employee Should Do When Injured at Work	Yellow
CA-11	When Injured at Work	White
CA-16	Authorization for Examination and/or treatment	White
CA-17	Duty Status Report	Green
CA-20	Attending Physician's Report	Pink
OWCP 1500	Health Insurance Claim Form	White w/ Red Ink
CA-915	Pharmacy Expenses	White
SF 1012	Travel Voucher	White

These forms can be faxed to DOL, however, you must also send the hard copy. In order to expedite processing, do not use cover memos with your faxes. Cover memos are processed differently, and will delay the forms attached from being processed. (Thank you to Karen Jameson, AMS, for bringing this issue to our attention.)

Defensive Driving: In FY 1999, APHIS employees were involved in 156 accidents, an increase of 7.5 percent over the previous year. The workers' compensation costs for employees injured or killed in car accidents is significant. Dr. Craig Reed, Administrator, APHIS, sent out a memorandum on July 20, 2000, to the APHIS Management Team concerning this issue. In this memorandum, Dr. Reed is requiring all APHIS managers and supervisors to ensure that their employees meet and maintain their defensive driving training. The APHIS Safety and Health staff will be checking APHIS work site records to verify driver training compliance. Copies of the memo are attached in wordpro and wordperfect. Please make sure all your supervisors have received it.

Claims for Reimbursement: All claims for reimbursement for costs related to a work related injury or illness should be submitted through DOL. This includes travel, medicines, supplies, etc. The standard form 1164 is not to be used for reimbursement for costs related to workers' compensation claims.

Tuberculosis Information: Attached to the newsletter is a guide (in wordpro and wordperfect) prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) called "Questions and Answers about TB". This information is valuable for all employees working in areas that make them vulnerable to this disease. TB incidences in the U.S. are increasing, and DHHS recognizes TB as an occupational disease for APHIS employees in regular contact with international passengers. Please review and disseminate the information to at risk employees.

Upcoming events:

The USDA Graduate School is offering “Workers’ Compensation and Disability Retirement” training on August 29-30 in Washington, DC. This course is a starting point for developing skills on how to handle OWCP and federal disability retirement claims. For additional information, please call the USDA Graduate School at (202) 314-3400.